

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-10 and 23-27 and amend Claim 11 as follows:

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11. (Amended) An absorbent article [for acquiring body fluids from a wearer], the [said] absorbent article having removable and/or replaceable absorbent core components without having to remove the absorbent article from the wearer, a first [front] waist region, a second [rear] waist region, and a crotch region between said first waist region and said second waist region, the [said] absorbent article further comprising:

[(a) a backsheet; and

(b)] an absorbent core [disposed between said backsheet and said wearer], said absorbent core comprising[: at least one] a first absorbent core component disposed in said crotch region and [which extends substantially to said front and rear waist regions;] and at least one removable second absorbent core component removably disposed in fluid communication with said first absorbent core component in said first waist region; and

a [wherein said] backsheet joined to said absorbent core, said backsheet comprising a web and [includes] means for providing access to said removable second absorbent core component through said backsheet[, whereby] so that said removable second absorbent core component may be removed from the [said] absorbent article through said backsheet without having to remove the absorbent article from the wearer, said access means comprising a discontinuity forming an opening in said web, said opening being positioned in said first waist region, a recloseable flap secured over said opening, and a fastener for recloseably joining said flap to said backsheet.

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the Abstract contending that legal phraseology such as "the present invention comprises" should be avoided pursuant to M.P.E.P. §608.01(b). The Examiner further requested correction of "the" (first occurrence on Line 4) with --a--. The Abstract has been amended in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution such that the objection should be overcome.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because (i) the same numerals are used in FIGS. 1-2 and FIGS. 3-8 "although the structures are not the same, e.g., Sheet 62 in FIG. 1 has a slit 41 whereas in FIG. 3 it has a window 44." In further supporting the objection, the Examiner also compares the elements corresponding to reference